

### Claims

1. An apparatus comprising:  
an axle housing having a generally tubular outer surface and an axis;  
a leaf spring positionable perpendicular to the axis of the axle housing;  
a pair of U-bolts, each U-bolt having an intermediate portion forming an arc around the axle housing, and having first and second ends operably connected to the leaf spring; and  
two pairs of tabs integral with the axle housing, the intermediate portion of each U-bolt positioned between one pair of the tabs.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a spring retaining seat between the axle housing and the leaf spring.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the two pairs of tabs are cast into the axle housing.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the two pairs of tabs extend in a direction perpendicular from the axle housing.
5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the leaf spring is a single leaf spring.
6. A method comprising:  
casting a pair of tabs into an axle housing, the axle housing having an axis, each of the pair of tabs extending perpendicular from the axis;  
positioning an intermediate portion of a U-bolt between the pair of tabs.
7. The method of claim 6 further comprising positioning a spring retaining seat between the axle housing and the leaf spring.
8. The method of claim 6 further comprising casting a second pair of tabs into the axle housing, each of the second pair of tabs extending perpendicular from the

axis.

9. The method of claim 6 wherein the U-bolt has a pair of ends fastened to a plate.

10. An apparatus comprising:

a generally cylindrical axle housing;

a spring retaining seat over the axle housing;

a leaf spring over the spring retaining seat;

a plate over the axle housing;

a pair of U-bolts extending around the axle housing and having first and second ends tightenable to the plate; and

two pairs of tabs extending from the axle housing, a portion of each U-bolt positionable between one pair of the tabs.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the tabs are integral with the axle housing.

12. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the tabs have sloped surfaces.